

eggs, to diversify and manage their investments consistent with the advice of financial professional people throughout the country and consistent with the aims of their families.

My bill ensures that employees are informed about the real health of their pensions, it gives them the decision-making power to guide their investment, and it guarantees their representation on boards that guide their future economic security. My bill guarantees the right of employees to make decisions about their pension contribution by repealing current rules that prohibit employees from deciding where to invest the money that belongs to them.

Pension money and assets, whether invested by the employee or contributed by the employer, represent compensation to the employee and the employee is not to be denied the control of that. It is not compensation to the pension plan or manager; it is compensation to the employee for services rendered to the corporation.

I urge my colleagues to join in the cosponsorship of this legislation that is designed to provide employees the pension freedom that they need to secure retirement for their families.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, as a Nation make us strong in virtue and in our desire to do what You require of us as Your people.

Increase our faith, that our defense may be secure and that we may be forthright in the face of enemies.

At the same time hold us in Your truth, that we may never be arrogant in the sight of others but one with them in facing the problems of our times and most caring to those who are suffering, in most need of Your mercy and our attention.

As justice guides our conscience, may compassion draw our hearts to Your charting the course of history.

Bless the Members of Congress today and every day of this session.

Be with all those whom they will welcome to this Chamber this evening.

Guide and protect the President of the United States as he speaks to this body and this Nation. May Your Spirit inspire him as he describes the state of our Union and does all in his power to strengthen the soul of this Nation.

Led by Divine Providence since the founding of this great Nation, we place our trust in You, O Lord, for our destiny and our lasting peace are in Your hands above all, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that the practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard or otherwise will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on January 25, 2002 at 3:06 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a waiver pursuant to sec. 902 of PL 101-246 concerning China.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

WAIVER CONCERNING CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-177)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Rela-

tions Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246) (the "Act"), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902 of the Act insofar as such suspensions pertain to the export of defense articles or defense services in support of efforts by the Government of Japan to destroy Japanese chemical weapons abandoned during World War II in the People's Republic of China. License requirements remain in place for these exports and require review and approval on a case-by-case basis by the United States Government.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 25, 2002.

LAID-OFF ENRON EMPLOYEES NEED HELP

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we will hear the State of the Union presented by the President of the United States. We all have collectively indicated our support for the effort to fight terrorism and secure our homeland.

But coming from Houston, Texas, I would like to raise another issue, to put a human face on the loss being experienced by the laid-off employees at Enron. And add my sympathy as well to the Baxter family. Some of these Enron employees will be with us today. I would hope that the Congress would act to help to give them relief, individuals who are innocent and have lost much of their livelihood, the ability to protect and provide for their family.

I believe that Congress can act, and Congress and the administration should respond to these individuals, hard-working taxpayers who now have found themselves without any opportunity for work primarily because much of what is owed to them is caught up in the judicial system. Our Congress and the administration can stand up and be counted with these families, and I hope we will do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.